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November 13, 2009

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **NOTIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH EXECUTION OF A
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FORMS TO PROVIDE LABORATORY
TESTING RESULTS FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY REAL-TIME DISEASE
DETECTION**

This is to notify you that I have executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (Cedars) and Long Beach Memorial Hospital (LBMC) to provide the framework to collaboratively and cooperatively work in response to Real-Time Disease Detection (RTDD) laboratory testing needs in Los Angeles County. The MOUs outline the general needs and responsibilities of the partnership in which the various laboratories will assist the Department of Public Health (DPH) with testing specimens during a public health emergency, using systems provided by the County and approved by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA).

Partnering with Emergency Department (ED) and laboratories at Cedars and LBMC will allow DPH to better establish an improved early-warning surveillance detection system for the pandemic influenza detection and other bioterrorism threats. This will, in part, be accomplished through the implementation of the newly approved FDA RTDD's Luminex xTAG - Respiratory Viral Panel system technologies and instrument placement at the four ED laboratories. Each ED laboratory will provide testing data validation and verification of respiratory specimen results from patients presenting to the ED's with influenza-like-illnesses during the 2009-10 influenza season.

County Counsel has approved the MOUs as to form.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

JEF:rdt

c: Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors